

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform the steps of:
  - providing, by the user, a unique identifier, the unique identifier comprising both a sequence of keystrokes and the inter-keystroke intervals associated with provision of those keystrokes;
  - comparing the unique identifier provided by the user with a reference unique identifier by:
    - comparing the absolute inter-keystroke intervals of the unique identifier with the absolute inter-keystroke intervals of the reference unique identifier and returning a true indication if the absolute inter-keystroke interval of the unique identifier is within a predetermined tolerance of the absolute inter-keystroke interval of the reference identifier;
    - comparing the relative inter-keystroke intervals of the unique identifier with the relative inter-keystroke intervals of the reference unique identifier and returning a true indication if the relative inter-keystroke interval of the unique identifier is within a predetermined tolerance of the relative inter-keystroke interval of the reference identifier;
  - authenticating said user if both said absolute comparison step and said relative comparison step return a true indication.
2. A computer program as claimed in claim 1 wherein said relative inter-keystroke intervals are the ratio of the inter-keystroke intervals and the inter-keystroke interval between entry of the first of said sequence of keystrokes and the second of said sequence of keystrokes.
3. A computer program as claimed in claim 2 further comprising the step of entry by the user of the reference unique identifier and wherein said predetermined tolerance is determined during said step of entry by the user of the reference unique identifier.
4. A computer program as claimed in claim 3 wherein said predetermined tolerance is explicitly set by the user.
5. The computer program as claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique identifier is provided by directly by the user.